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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Syrian Golan Heights; Sheer Violations of Human Rights by Israel*

Internationally recognized as Syrian territory, the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel since 1967. It was captured during the 1967 Six-Day War, establishing the Purple Line. In the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel agreed to return about 5% of the territory to Syrian civilian control. This part was incorporated into a demilitarized zone that runs along the ceasefire line. This strip is under the military control of UN peace keeping forces. Construction of Israeli settlements began in the remainder of the territory held by Israel, which was under military administration until Israel passed the Golan Heights Law extending Israeli territory in 1981. That was a clear one-sided annexation of occupied territories of Syria to Israel. This region includes the western two-thirds of the geological Golan Heights, as well as the Israeli-occupied part of Mount Hermon (Jabal Haramun).This move was condemned by the United Nations Security Council in UN Resolution 497, which said that "the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect." Israel asserts it has a right to retain the Golan, citing the text of UN Resolution 242, which calls for "safe and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force". However, the international community rejects Israeli claims to title to the territory and regards it as sovereign Syrian territory.

In recent years we have witnessed violations of international will by Israel army in the said region as air strikes, assassination, seizing natural resources etc. The last clear Israeli violation series performed in 17 Jan 2015 by an Israeli aircraft which fired two missiles in the Syrian province of Quneitra near Golan Heights just in front of UN peacekeepers station (UNDOF) in this region which left 6 people dead and a child wounded. Quickly after this terrorist attack, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights released an official statement in 18 Jan 2015 describing its troops' witness accounts of the incident. According to the statement, the observers saw two unmanned aircraft coming in from the Israeli side of the border and crossing the demilitarized zone at UN position number 30 near the village Masada in the northern Golan Heights. "This incident is a violation of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces," the UN said in its statement soon after the UNDOF statement and report released.

We as a NGO would like to express our worries about the serious threat of Israel not only to Syrian civilians in Golan but also to UN peacekeepers in that region.

Therefore, the following recommendations are offered to the Human Right Council:

- Reviewing the Golan situation after 1974 Agreement to rewrite a practical strong text.
- Forming a Fact-finding committee for recent terrorists attack and all previous violations of Israel in Golan specially Quneitra.

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*Neda Institute for Scientific and Political Research, a NGO without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.